

LOUIS ZAMPERINI COMING HOME

WAR DEPARTMENT GIVES FAMILY FIRST OFFICIAL WORD FAMED FLIER SAFE

First official word that First Lieut. Louis Zamperini, Torrance hero of world-wide fame, is safe and en route to his home was received by Mr. and Mrs. Anthony Zamperini, his parents, yesterday from the War Department.

Acting Adjutant General Edward F. Witzell telegraphed Mrs. Zamperini the following message:

"The Secretary of War has asked me to inform you that your son, Lt. Louis Zamperini, has returned to military control 5 Sept., 1945, and is being returned to the United States in

BULLETIN

Lt. Louis Zamperini, reported to be resting on Okinawa yesterday, is expected to arrive in the United States within a few days, possibly Friday, it was announced last night. On Okinawa, Zamperini is said to have remarked that he would like to have a gold watch and see a good American movie. He said that soon after his capture, the Japanese recognized him and tried to prevail upon him to broadcast Nip propaganda. This he refused to do and suffered additional punishment for his refusal to allow himself to be used for propaganda purposes. He is said to have gained 20 pounds since his release from a Japanese prison hospital, now weighing 149 pounds.

the near future. Physical condition good. He will be given an opportunity to communicate with you on arrival.

Thus long years of anxiety on the part of the Zamperini family has ended in complete knowledge that the Olympic miler who grew up in Torrance is alive, safe and on the way home.

They never gave up hope despite heart-breaking messages that he had died in action, that he was the mistreated and mangled Japanese prisoner of war which he proved to be, but they never could be sure, even up to the time his friend, Robert Trumbull, of the New York Times, scooped the world and published an exclusive interview with Lt. Zamperini Sunday, obtained in Yokohama Sept. 6, the day after he was released.

The family gave credit to Trumbull's story, because they knew that the writer was closely associated with Louis, would know him and would probably ahead of all other correspondents, get the story of his life since his plane crashed 200 miles northwest of Palmyra on May 27, 1943.

But they never were sure, because continued denials of knowledge of Louis' release came from the War Department. Even when the ill-famed Japanese Postman months ago assertedly put Lt. Zamperini on the air from Tokyo, and even though they recognized his voice from recordings, and he gave them information known intimately only among members of the family, they could not be sure of his safety at the hands of the Japanese.

Yesterday, however, the official word came and the Zamperinis breathed their first breath of complete freedom from anxiety since they had received word that he was missing.

During the past week, the family home has been thronged with visitors, from metropolitan newspaper men down to close friends and relatives, wishing them well and waiting for more news. The telephone has been busy constantly, and a record

kept of all calls that Lt. Louis might know who have been inquiring for him.

Mayor W. H. Tolson, Commander C. Earl Conner, of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Miss Lure W. Fraser and Capt. R. L. Lewellen waited upon the family Tuesday evening and offered the services of the city, veterans groups and the community as a whole in preparing a welcome for the hero, and in arranging to take Mr. and Mrs. Zamperini to whatever point he lands in the United States to be with him.

Captain Lewellen was delegated by the Zamperinis to take complete charge of all such arrangements, just as he did when the famous athlete returned from the Olympic games in 1936.

The captain said that plans are being prepared for his welcome, but asked the people of Torrance to please allow the Zamperinis the freedom of their home by remaining away from the residence when Louis returns until they have had a few days to enjoy their reunion.

Ample opportunity will be arranged in the program of welcome for the public to have a chance to see and greet Lt. Zamperini, it was said.

The story, as reported by the New York Times syndicate and printed in the Los Angeles Times of last Sunday, reads in full as follows:

Lt. Louis Zamperini, miler runner in the 1928 Olympics who was given up for dead when he failed to return from a search mission in an Army plane almost 28 months ago, is on the way home today after an incredible survival of 47 days on a raft, followed by equally incredible cruelties in Japanese prison camps from the Marshall Islands to Honshu.

Lt. Russell A. Phillips of Princeton, Ind., pilot of the Army B-24 in which Zamperini was bombardier, also survives the unprecedented ordeal on the raft and shared his prison hardships until he was sent to another camp recently. A third man in the raft, whom Zamperini could identify only as MacIntyre, the tall gunner, died on the 33rd day at sea. The other seven of the B-24's crew were lost with the plane.

Family Kept Hope
Zamperini's survival was held so unlikely by the Army that the day after he made a prisoner broadcast on the Japanese radio, American networks carried an Army announcement which was relayed to Zamperini via the Japanese—saying he definitely had been killed. That was a year ago.

But his family in Torrance, nevertheless kept up hope and wrote to him as if he still were alive. He received their letters three weeks ago.

(His family said at that time—Nov. 21, 1944—that he had broadcast information known only to them. Later, they said they received a letter from him.)

At this moment he is in a plane bound for Okinawa, the worse for his starvation.

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Veterans' Memorial Building Drive Progressing as Need Increases

The Veterans Memorial Building campaign will enter the industrial and chain store divisions this week, according to Commander C. Earl Conner, Torrance Post No. 3251, Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Additional workers also are being enlisted for the residential division, which will enter its final phase next week.

The Torrance Post is raising \$20,000 toward the erection of the Veterans Memorial Building, which will serve all veterans of the Torrance area.

Mail contributions may be sent direct to Commander Conner, P. O. Box 335, Torrance, and all citizens are urged to send in their donations at an early date, to insure that the building will be completed on or before Jan. 1, he said.

Commander Conner visited veterans from the Torrance area in hospitals last week, during which tour he chatted with a soldier with one arm missing. "I see you have lost your



LOUIS ZAMPERINI
When running for University of Southern California

Alleys of City Will Be Paved

Alleys of Torrance will be resurfaced during the year as rapidly as equipment is available, Councilman J. E. Hitchcock told the City Council Tuesday night.

He said that \$14,000 had been set up in the budget for the rock and oil surfacing of alleys, but with the small number of men and equipment available to do the work the progress would be slow.

"City Hotel" Full As Wave Of Offenses Sweeps Over Torrance

Police Chief John Stroh hung out the "no vacancy" sign on the Torrance city jail Tuesday. Stroh said that it was not his idea to relieve the housing shortage by filling his jail, but more the idea of those breaking the law in one way or another.

City Buying Much Of OCD Equipment Offered for Sale

The City of Torrance will buy all the OCD equipment possible, it was indicated Tuesday night. When the OCD informed the city it must give up the supplies furnished for emergencies during the war, or buy them, the city proceeded to appropriate several hundred dollars for ladders, hoses, pumps, tools and other equipment, for various departments.

Sgt. Yoshinobu Among Victims Of Rail Wreck

Staff Sgt. James Yoshinobu, local Japanese-American soldier, was among those injured in the Santa Anita rail wreck, accident at Santa Anita last week, it was revealed.

Conditions in Bus Department Criticized As City Council Is Served With Papers to Halt Sale

SURVEY FOR ENLARGEMENT OF POSTOFFICE BUILDING PROMISED BY GOVERNMENT

The Postoffice department will make a survey of conditions in Torrance postoffice, and recommendations for much needed alterations and additions will be submitted to the department and the Federal Works agency for inclusion in future building programs, Postmaster C. Earl Conner announced this week following receipt of a reply to his letter asking for the survey.

Conner requested that the situation here be viewed "concerning the need at this building of additional floor space which is urgently necessary to properly handle the amount of business now transacted and for future increase."

"The amount of business currently being transacted is approximately 400 percent increase over that existing at the date we occupied this building in October, 1935," Conner told the Fourth Assistant Postmaster General in a letter dated Aug. 27, 1945.

"The building at present is overcrowded in every respect. The lobby and workroom are inadequate, the window facilities in the screening should be increased 100 per cent. The vault space does not meet requirements, the rest rooms are not equipped to care for the number of employees necessary. In fact every foot of floor space, including the postmaster's office, is crowded with furniture and equipment required to carry on our work."

"The postwar period in this community will show a continued increase in population, many new business houses and homes will be erected as well as additional industries locating here."

"Our industries, business firms, organizations and the postwar planning committee, would, I am sure, appreciate your early consideration."

F. J. Buckley, the acting fourth assistant, replied to Conner's request as of Sept. 6, and a survey is being contemplated in the near future.

Conner said that he had called the attention of the Torrance Chamber of Commerce and the postwar planning agencies here to his request for action.

Coach Strike Causing Some 'Thinking' Here

Torrance football fans who have gone through the first two weeks of school without seeing any "after school" practice have often remarked this week that "this wouldn't happen if Torrance had its own schools and control of its own athletic department."

The coaches are striking against "after school" practice trying to enforce demands on the Los Angeles Board of Education for overtime pay. Some 200 coaches throughout the big L. A. system are involved.

This may explain why the Torrance High school baseball team traveled unescorted by coaches last year when a prominent local lad was injured and without medical aid until he returned to Torrance.

Ask the Professor

(By H. F. Noake)

Dear Professor: What, in your opinion, is the greatest contribution science could now make to humanity?

Answer: Discover how to bottle the milk of human kindness.

Conditions within the municipal bus department were soundly rapped by the Torrance Civil Service Board Tuesday night as the City Council was being served with copies of an alternative writ of mandamus ordering them to appear Monday at 9:30 a.m. in Superior court department 34 to show cause why they should not proceed according to Act 5203 in selling the lines.

Postoffice Service to Be Investigated

B. C. Buxton and C. B. Baghall have been named as a committee of Torrance Chamber of Commerce to cooperate with Postmaster C. Earl Conner in working to the end that postal service in Torrance might be improved.

At the meeting of the Chamber board of directors last Friday, Secretary Blaine Walker read a letter from Buxton referring to the post office situation. Buxton said that the situation was unfair to the merchants and residents of the community, and that they should not be burdened with the present mail delivery handicap.

Postmaster Conner, in attendance at the meeting, declared that the problem had been under consideration for some time and that his cooperation with the chamber was available in initiating the circulation of petitions by the citizens concerned in the areas that would most likely wish Torrance post office delivery. Appointment of the committee followed.

Several sections of Torrance are being served by post offices of Gardena, Redondo Beach and Lomita. It was felt that the whole of Torrance should be served by the Torrance post office to give the residents and businessmen more speedy service.

To Appear Monday
City Attorney J. E. McCall and members of the council will appear in court Monday at 9:30 a.m. to show cause why they have not proceeded according to the act.

McCall declares that it is not necessary to follow the act in this case, because a vote of the

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George Barham, Prisoner of Japs, Is Free, Report

Among the recently liberated Japanese prisoners of war is George A. Barham, taken prisoner at Bataan when that fortress fell in February, 1942.

News of his liberation brought joy to the home of Mr. and Mrs. J. G. Caldwell. The soldier is their adopted son, Caldwell, who spends his entire time in the service of veterans through local Selective Service offices, had practically given up hope of finding the boy alive.

County Aid in Western Ave. Job Is Sought

County aid in the widening and extension of Western avenue through Torrance will be asked, it was decided by the City Council Tuesday night.

Since the county is tremendously interested in the development of Western, planning to widen the thoroughfare north of 190th st., and inquiries have been made by Supervisor Raymond Darby regarding progress between Torrance and Los Angeles in the opening and widening plans, the council decided that it would be well to seek county participation. City Engineer G. M. Jain was instructed to ask for the aid.

Civic Improvement Committee New Name of Postwar Planning Group

"Civic Improvement Committee" is the new name of the Torrance Postwar Planning Committee, as a result of action of the group Thursday in the Chamber of Commerce offices.

Reed Parkin, president of the Torrance Chamber of Commerce and secretary-treasurer of Doak Aircraft Co. was named as permanent chairman and Blaine Walker, executive secretary of the chamber, was named as ex-officio secretary.

"Opportunity is again knocking at the door of Torrance and every civic-minded citizen should do something on behalf of the community," Postmaster C. Earl Conner, a member of the committee, declared in keynoting the meeting. Reviewing the past activities of the committee, he pointed out the importance of having a man such as Parkin at the head of the group and the unanimous election followed his suggestion.

Mayor W. H. Tolson, also a member, said that an overall

development program for Torrance was under consideration of the City Council at this time, covering buildings, recreation, much needed street work, water development in Southwest Torrance and North Torrance, and sewers in North Torrance.

It was agreed that proposals which would qualify for government financial participation should be given first consideration.

Harold F. Perry, principal of Torrance High school, and also a member of the body, said that under proper local leadership the schools would be happy to take over the arts and crafts project for which a new building is proposed by the city.

It was proposed and unanimously agreed that union labor be invited to membership on the committee. Other members are Robert Plomert Jr., Glen M. Jain, Charles V. Jones, Grover C. Whyte, Kenneth Bradley and the Rev. Paul M. Wheeler.